specific communication/information regarding the two resolutions passed by the All India Kashmiri Pandits Conference in its session stated to have been held on 2nd October, 1993 at Jammu.

However, representations have been received from migrants/their organisations representing them which have included demands for grant of concessional loans, allotment of shops and sites etc., to enable them to start business activities till they are able to return to the State. Demands for appointing a custodian for their properties have also been made.

Permanent rehabilitation of the migrants outside the Valley is not contemplated. Hence arrangements have been made to provide for their basic needs, by way of cash relief, rations, temporary accommodation and facilities relating to education, banking and insurance etc. As for the properties of the migrants in the valley, the State Government has initiated action to collect details of the same. It is expected that this would facilitate better security, sanction of loans against the said properties, settlement of insurance claims, etc.

As regards compensation for the damaged/looted property under the existing policy of the Government ex-gratia relief in case of immovable property is being paid to the tune of 50% of the extent of damages, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 1 lakh.

Use of Alcohol as an alternative to Petrol

1749. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of countries using alcohol as an alternative fuel to petrol; and

(b) whether Government would allow the use of alcohol as an alternative fuel to petrol in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) As per the information available with this Ministry, alcohol (methanol or ethanol) is being used in petrol driven vehicles in countries like Brazil, New Zealand, Canada, Sweden, Norway, Germany, Japan, United States of America, Argentina and Kenya.

(b) The technology of using alcohol in partial or total substitution of petrol is established Based on the availability of surplus methanol as also the test and trials of using a blend of 3% of methanol with petrol (M-3 blend) in petrol powered vehicles, the Government have approved conduct of an experiment of using M-3 blend at 10 retail outlets in the city of Baroda for a period of one year even though financially the project has not been found to be viable. As regards ethanol, its use would depend on its surplus availability on sustained basis and financial viability.

Closing Down of Northern Regional Business in the HQs. by ONGC

1750. SHRI SURESH KALAMADI: SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has initiated a process of closing down its Northern Regional Business Centre Headquarters in Jammu; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) As